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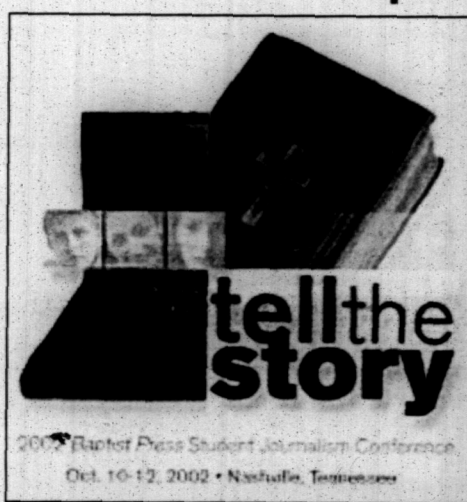
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OCTOBER 24, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 37



**Be on time for  
Sunday School!**



**Daylight Savings Time  
ends at 2 a.m. on  
Sunday, October 27.**

Turn clocks back one hour  
before going to bed  
on October 26.

# THE BAPTIST Record

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Nashville, Tennessee  
OCT 30 2002

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Miss. Baptist colleges take top honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain and William Carey College in Hattiesburg took top honors in several categories at the recent Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism competition in Nashville. Both schools are affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Blue Mountain College (BMC) took first place for Best Overall Literary Magazine. BMC student Karen Allen placed first in the Literary Magazine (Essay) category, while BMC student Chris Roberts took second place for Literary Magazine (Poetry).

BMC also placed second in the Best Overall Yearbook category, with Sandra Foster taking third place for Yearbook (Computer Generated Art).

"These awards are an affirmation and a reflection of the quality and character of Blue Mountain College faculty and students. Our students have had enriched and meaningful experiences, which give them something of worth about which to write," said BMC President Bettye Coward.

William Carey College (WCC) scored big in the Newspaper (In Depth) category, with first place honors going to students Rocky Pugh, Chad Hampton, Tabitha Frizzell, Amanda Eady, and Michelle

Smith. Eady also won both first and second place awards in the Photography (Organizational Color) category.

Pugh placed second in the Newspaper (Front Page Design) category, and WCC student John Stodghill placed third in the Photography (Creative Black and White) category.

"We are so proud of the hard work our students have demonstrated in developing the student newspaper. The fact that they won so many awards, even in the first year of the journalism program, is not surprising to me. I believe we will see many more awards in the future," said WCC President Larry Kennedy.

More than 100 awards were presented to student journalists, broadcasters, and photographers at the Excellence in Journalism banquet Oct. 12 at Belmont University in Nashville. Over 200 guests attended the event featuring a keynote address by former ABC News religion reporter Peggy Wehmeyer.

Wehmeyer, who became the first correspondent to report for a major network on religious and spiritual issues, spoke of her journey of more than 20 years in broadcast journalism, including covering religion for World News Tonight with Peter Jennings and 20/20.



**SELECTING THE BEST** — Gary Fong (left), director of editorial graphics technology for the San Francisco Chronicle, critiques the photography of Rocky Pugh (to right of Fong), a student at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Fong, a Pulitzer Prize jurist, was the keynote speaker at the Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference October 10-12 in Nashville. (BP photo by James Bates)

The banquet was the culmination of the second annual Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference, Oct. 10-12. Nearly 700 entries were received from 21 Christian colleges and universities.

During the conference, students attended workshops held in the categories of print journalism, broadcast journalism, design, photography, literary magazines, and public relations. They also joined in worship services and listened to keynote addresses from prominent Christian journalists.

William H. Perkins Jr., editor of The Baptist Record in Jackson, taught a workshop on careers in Baptist journalism, while WCC professor Michael Chute led workshops on ethics and participated in a panel discussion.

This year's conference theme was "Tell the Story," encouraging students to not only tell stories through their journalistic work but also to tell the most important story of the gospel through their opportunities of influence.

"I think we were largely successful during the conference in blending spiritual encouragement with professional growth and development," said Will Hall, vice president

for news services with the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and executive editor of Baptist Press.

"Our distinguished faculty and guest speakers offered critical skill-building opportunities and shared unique knowledge during workshops and general sessions to better equip participants to tell the story," Hall pointed out after the conference adjourned.

Don Boykin, deputy managing editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, challenged the students to give up their rights and go on mission with God into the newsrooms of the secular media.

He noted that as a Christian in the secular media he sometimes finds himself in the middle with no friends on either side because at work "not everybody is all that fired up about God," while at church a lot of folks don't like the news media.

Boykin said he believes the solution to the problem with mainstream media today is for more solid Christian journalists to take the principles of faith and journalism they have gained into the newsrooms.

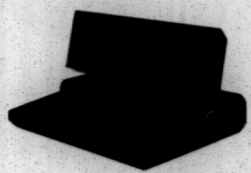


Wehmeyer



**HOW IT'S DONE** — Don Boykin (left), deputy managing editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, held students' interest at the 2002 Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference in Nashville on October 10, with his stories of life as a Christian in the newspaper business and his important message about being on mission in a secular newsroom. (BP photo by James Bates)

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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## Eyes on the prize

The California television reporter was stunned by what she heard while attending a recent conference in a southern U.S. city considered to be a Baptist stronghold.

"I was in my hotel room shortly after I arrived, and I turned on the television to catch the local news. I couldn't believe it when the weathercaster said, 'Tomorrow's weather is going to be so nice that you'll want to go on a picnic with your family after church.'"

"I was stunned because in California where I work, there would never be any mention of church like that in a local broadcast. It just wouldn't happen," the reporter observed.

So it is today in many areas of our beloved country. California is certainly not the only place when a Christian can get into big trouble for the mere mention in public of anything marginally religious. In those areas, woe be unto the weathercaster who allows a word like "church" to slip from his/her lips. The cost could be a career.

In another instance, a student at one of this country's most prestigious institutions of higher learning described in a recent issue of *Newsweek* magazine what it's like for students like him to openly live their Christian faith on campus.

He has been ostracized. He has been ridiculed and accused of harboring the same attitudes that led to the Crusade slaughters of the Middle Ages. He has been compared to the Spanish Inquisitors. He is assumed to be backward and unsophisticated and against what is to his detractors the most basic of all women's rights — abortion — because he lives a Christian lifestyle.

We should daily thank God for the privilege of living in the Bible Belt. We have our problems, but a weathercaster wouldn't be fired for uttering the word "church" and university students aren't continually harassed over their faith.

While we're thanking God allowing us to live in the Bible Belt, we should also thank him for making us the buckle of the

Bible Belt. Many other groups aspire to such a title, but it's true in the case of Mississippi and it's even truer in the case of Mississippi Baptists.

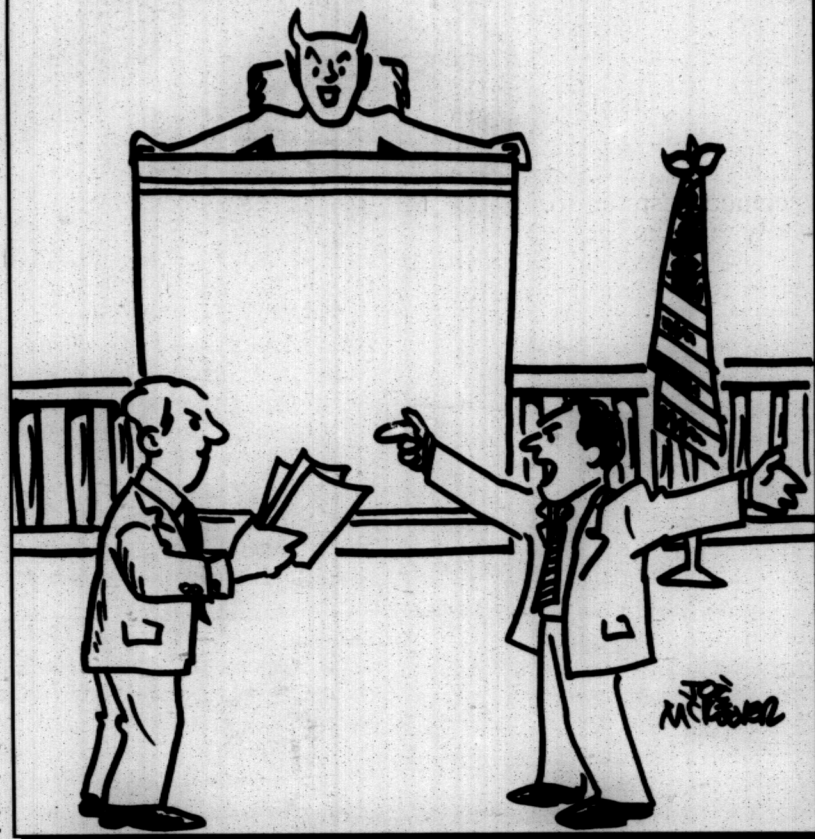
We are special. While most of the rest of the country tears itself apart and even some Southern Baptists in other places fight viciously among themselves, Mississippi Baptists have managed to keep their eyes on the prize — helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

That's not just another trite slogan dreamed up by a marketing consultant. It's the battle cry for Mississippi Baptists, selected by Mississippi Baptists, that lets the world know our priorities in no uncertain terms.

It would be mere words, however, if we didn't practice what we preach. Year after year, we have given sacrificially to advance the cause of Christian missions around the world and here at home. Year after year, the number of Mississippi Baptists taking advantage of short-term missions opportunities has increased substantially. Year after year, the ranks burgeon with Mississippi Baptists volunteers willing to clean flooded homes, feed disaster victims, and help rebuild damaged houses of worship.

On October 29-30, the finest Baptists in the world will gather at First Church, Jackson, for the 167th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Great men and women have gone before us to plant and water; it is our responsibility to carry that spiritual greatness into our generation and through us, to generations to come.

**"GO RIGHT AHEAD, CHRISTIANS—  
WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN  
THE WORLD!"**



Divisive issues have come and gone over the years, but the political and religious controversies that have toppled (and continue to topple) other great organizations have not been allowed to distract Mississippi Baptists from the monumental task set before us in Matt. 28:18-20.

May it always be so. May a lost world see Mississippi Baptists bursting through the doors next Wednesday afternoon, unified and renewed by our time together and charged with a burning passion to share the Gospel with everyone we meet.

In light of what our Savior did for us, all else pales in comparison.

## GUEST OPINION:



### *Life's greatest adventure*

By Rebecca Ingram Powell  
Nashville, Tennessee

A recent statistic reported by the Southern Baptist Convention reveals that 88% of children who are raised in evangelical homes leave the church at the age of 18 and never return.

What kind of example are we setting as parents when it comes to raising, or erecting, pillars of the church? By remembering the seven "ups" for erecting a pillar of the church, you can make sure your children are standing on the firm foundation of your own godly lifestyle:

- **Cough it UP:** Give freely of your time, talents and resources to the church. Keep in mind that it's okay to establish boundaries as the Lord leads you. Children need to see that their parents are generous givers, but they don't need to see parents who lack priorities and wind up giving so much of themselves that there is nothing left to give their families.

- **Cheer UP:** Are you an encouraging member of your church body? Are you sensitive

to the needs of those around you? Think of the pleasure you receive from a (gasp!) handwritten note or an unexpected phone call.

By keeping a supply of note cards and stamps on hand, you could easily send at least two notes a week to shut-ins or people who just need a lift. That kind of ministry easily rubs off on your children.

- **Clam UP:** When you're tempted to dissect the delivery of the Sunday sermon on the way home in the car, gripe about the new church budget, or complain about a proposed building project, just be quiet. Your children are always listening. Do they

hear you running the church and its operations down, or do they hear a tone of thankfulness and respect in your conversation? Enough said.

- **Lift UP** your hands and be an enthusiastic worshiper. Train your children by your actions in church.

- **Stick UP** for your pastor. As a pastor's kid, I know how important this is.

- **Warm UP** to your pastor and other members of your church staff, along with their families, by having them in your home to share a meal.

"I wanted to have my pastor

over to my house so that my kids would know he was accessible to them, that he was their friend," explains Dianne, a home schooling mother of three. "I was able to accomplish that for them, but in another way for myself. I began to see my pastor as a person whose family was a lot like mine and who needed my friendship and my prayers, too."

- **You're UP!** "My wife Marla and I try to make serving God such a part of our lives that we don't think about it," says Eddie Poole, associate pastor at Canopy Roads Church in Tallahassee, Fla. "Our kids don't think about it either. It just comes natural, and they do it too without thinking much."

As a parent, the home team is really counting on you. When you're up, don't let them down. By setting an example, you're erecting your pillars on a foundation of stone.

Rebecca Ingram Powell, an author and speaker, is a regular columnist for *Baptist Press*.

# U.S. aiming to increase pressure on Sudan

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Congress has easily approved a revised bill designed to promote peace in an African country that has suffered under the militant practices of its Islamic government.

The House of Representatives and the Senate passed the Sudan Peace Act two days apart, bringing victorious conclusion to legislation that seemed destined for failure only weeks earlier. The House approved the bill with a 359-8 vote, while the Senate adopted the measure by unanimous consent. President Bush has signed the bill.

The legislation provides immediate aid to southern Sudan's beleaguered citizens and requires the White House to monitor peace negotiations and to enforce sanctions on the Khartoum regime if it is not negotiating in good faith or is interfering with humanitarian aid.

"I am pleased that in the midst of a national debate on the possibility of war with Iraq, Congress recognized the tie that binds the government of Khartoum with other international terrorists," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville.

"The American people will not tolerate terrorism against innocent men, women, and children within our borders or abroad," he said.

Sudan's civil war of two decades is largely a religious one. The militant Islamic regime has waged what has been widely described as a genocidal campaign against Christians, animists and moderate Muslims in the southern and central regions of the country. The Khartoum-supported effort has included slave raids and the bombardment of hospi-

tals, churches, schools, and relief stations. It also has consisted of the rape of women and children, as well as the forcible conversion to Islam of children and starvation for Sudanese who refuse to convert.

only the House measure included language that would have barred companies from being listed on U.S. stock exchanges if they participate in oil development in Sudan.

Big business and some in the Bush administration and Senate strongly opposed that element. Profits from oil in Sudan have helped underwrite Khartoum's military campaign.

The capital markets sanctions were dropped from the legislation that eventually gained passage, but other provisions supporters described as strong ones were substituted. The final bill includes these elements:

- It requires the president to certify every six months that the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement are negotiating properly.

- If the president finds the Khartoum regime is not negotiating in good faith or has interfered with aid efforts, he may choose from the following sanctions: denying Sudan's government access to oil revenues; opposing international loans and credit to Khartoum; possibly suspending diplomatic relations with Sudan; and seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution to enact an arms embargo against the Islamic regime.

- It authorizes \$300 million in non-military aid to the southern Sudanese during the next three years.

In a news conference Oct. 10, Senate and House supporters expressed optimism about its potential impact.

The bill is "not the answer to all" of the concerns in Sudan, but it is a "major step forward," said Sen. Bill Frist (R.-Tenn.)

It is a "wonderful start to victory and to peace," but Congress will take "even more aggressive steps" if necessary to bring an end to the conflict, said Sen. Sam Brownback (R.-Kan.)



**SUDAN WITNESS** — Despite the tragedy and bloodshed all around her, IMB medical missionary associate Debbie Marshall (center) continues her work in southern Sudan. Human rights and religious freedom advocates in the U.S. hope the Sudan Peace Act, recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush, will lead to an end to civil war and persecution in the predominantly Muslim country. (BP photo)

More than two million people have been killed and about 4.5 million people have been displaced from their homes.

After struggling to work out an agreement on two differing approaches to the problem, House and Senate supporters finally worked out a compromise in recent weeks.

The House and Senate passed different versions of the Sudan Peace Act in 2001, but

## Women's program debuts

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Insight, a magazine-style program exploring challenges and topics relevant to Christian women, is making its debut on FamilyNet Television. Hosted by Lakita Garth, Sally Colon, and Holly McClure, Insight will explore such topics as health, real beauty, relationships, entertainment, fashion, business, and politics. Lakita Garth is an abstinence advocate, social commentator, public speaker, and television personality. Sally Colon is an actress and recording artist, and Holly McClure is a syndicated movie critic, television personality and author. "As for the content of the show, Insight truly has a different voice," executive producer Luz Marina said. "Insight speaks to women in contemporary language about today's issues that are useful and relevant to its faith-based audience." Insight airs each Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. central time and Thursdays at 10 p.m. central. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, FamilyNet is a 24-hour television network airing more than 50 hours of original, values-based programs weekly. FamilyNet broadcasts to a potential 30 million TV households and is available on cable systems and broadcast stations nationwide. For more information, visit the FamilyNet website at [www.FamilyNet.com](http://www.FamilyNet.com) or call (800) 832-6638.

As far as he is concerned, Rep. Tom Tancredo (R.-Colo.) said in a warning to Khartoum that "the clock starts ticking today, and we know they are in violation" already.

Khartoum representatives criticized the congressional action, saying it would harm peace efforts, the newspaper Al-Khartoum reported.

Leaders of the Sudanese regime and the resistance movement agreed in July to a framework for a peace process. Those negotiations have been halted, according to recent reports.

Even during the negotiations, there were reports the Islamic government's forces continued to attack Sudanese in the south. Islamic troops killed about 1,500 people and displaced about 350,000 in a

## THE BAPTIST Record

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late July effort, according to the Church Alliance for a New Sudan, a division of the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD).

Congress' action came two weeks after a prayer vigil sponsored by the Church Alliance was held outside the State Department's offices in Washington, D.C..

Sudan is one of six countries designated by the State Department in 2001 as countries of particular concern in the area of religious freedom. The others are Burma, China, Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.

In addition to the ERLC and IRD, other organizations supporting the Sudan Peace Act included the American Anti-slavery Group, American Jewish Committee, Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom, Christian Solidarity International, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Servant's Heart, and World Vision.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Twenty-five black student leaders from college campuses across Mississippi meet in Jackson at the Baptist Building for training and to plan statewide black student BSU programs for the 1992-93 school year. The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offereing helps support Baptist Student Union work with students throughout the state.

### 20 years ago

Bob Keeshan, better known to millions as "Captain Kangaroo," says that broadcasters are shrinking their responsibilities for teaching values to America's children and youth.

### 50 years ago

One-third of all Protestant churches in the United States are Baptist. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs reports that a recent compilation shows 79,546 Baptist churches throughout the nation with a membership of 17,065,752.



THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

# 2002 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## and associated meetings

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

- Committees of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 9 a.m., Baptist Building.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 10 a.m., Baptist Building Skyroom.
- Associational Missions Directors Conference, 10:30 a.m., Rankin Association, Brandon. Contact: Allen Stephens at (601) 939-2182. E-mail: astephens@rankinbaptists.org
- Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association, 11a.m. luncheon followed by afternoon program, Ridgecrest Church, Madison; \$10 per person. Speakers: Steve Ogle, Dionne Williams, and Wayne Edwards. Contact Aubry Martin at (601) 939-1715. E-mail: aubry@fbcrichland.org.
- Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference, 1 p.m., Fifth Floor of First Church, Jackson. Speakers: Dorothy Henderson, Kay Faulkenberry, and Betty Gregory. Contact: Kay McDonnell at (601) 292-3305, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305. E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.
- Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, afternoon session, 1:30 p.m.
- Lay Missions Conference, 3 p.m., First Church, Jackson. Contact: Carol Wright at (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.
- Lay Missions Banquet, 5 p.m., First Church, Jackson. \$8.50 per person. Contact: Carol Wright at (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.
- Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, evening session, 6:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Seminary Extension Breakfast, 7 a.m., Baptist Building Chapel. Contact Keith Gordon at (601) 292-3307, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 307. E-mail: kgordon@mbcb.org.
- Annuitants Breakfast, 7:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall West, First Church, Jackson. Contact: Robin Nichols at (601) 292-3226, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 226. E-mail: rnichols@mbcb.org.
- Mississippi College Christian Service Alumni Continental Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall West of First Church, Jackson. No reservations necessary. Welcome: MC President Lee Royce and Vice-President for Spiritual Development Eric Pratt. Contact: Lisa Williams at (601) 925-3208. E-mail: alumni@mc.edu.
- **Mississippi Baptist Convention, First Session, 8:25 a.m.**
- Mississippi College School of Nursing Health Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., fourth floor of First Church, Jackson. Free testing includes cholesterol, glucose, glaucoma, blood pressure, hearing, stress screening, and osteoporosis screening. Flu vaccinations will be available for \$12. Contact: Deborah Bolian at (601) 925-3000. E-mail: bolian@mc.edu.
- New Orleans Seminary Alumni Luncheon, 12 noon, First Church, Jackson. Speaker: Thomas

Strong from the seminary. \$10 per person. Contact: Nathan Barber at (601) 264-2427, or the NOBTS Alumni Officer at (800) NOBTS01, ext. 3331.

- Mid-America Seminary Alumni Banquet, 12 noon, Shoney's Restaurant at 680 Larson Street, Jackson. Speaker: Mike Spradlin, Mid-America Seminary President. Contact: David Thomas at (662) 236-3513. E-mail: shilohbaptist@watervalley.net.
- Southwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon, 12 noon, Steam Room Grill, Interstate 55 North, Jackson. \$10 per person. Speaker: Keith Rosenbaum, SWBTS director of testing and counseling. Contact: Dennis Salley at (662) 234-8151.
- **Mississippi Baptist Convention, Second Session, 1:30 p.m.**
- Chaplain's Banquet, 4:45 p.m., Baptist Building Skyroom. Members and spouses attend free; non-members \$8 per person. Contact: Elaine Smith at (601) 292-3361 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 361. E-mail: esmith@mbcb.org.
- Blue Mountain College Ministerial Alumni Association Dinner, 5 p.m., Galloway United Methodist Church, Jackson. Speakers: BMC President Bettye Coward and Randy Bostick. Music: Shawn and Lynita David. \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased from alumni association officers or at the BMC booth in the display area.
- **Mississippi Baptist Convention, Third Session, 6:30 p.m.**
- William Carey College Alumni Fellowship, immediately following adjournment of MBC third session, Chapel of the Baptist Building. Contact: Donna Wheeler at (601) 318-6167, or drop by the Carey booth in the convention exhibit hall.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

- Bivocational Ministers Fellowship Breakfast, 7 a.m., Baptist Building Chapel. Complimentary. No reservations necessary. Contact: Kay McDonnell at (601) 292-3305, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305. E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.
- **Mississippi Baptist Convention, Fourth Session, 8:15 a.m.**
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, immediately following adjournment of fourth session, Baptist Building Chapel. Contact: Brenda Box at (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbbox@mbcb.org.

### REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place on the second floor above the State Street entrance of First Church, Jackson. Volunteers will begin registering messengers at noon on Monday, October 28. Registration will resume at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 30.

### CONVENTION OFFICE

The Convention Office will be located across from the registration area (see above). Incoming telephone messages will be received at (601) 949-1924, and will be posted at the convention office. An outgoing telephone line will be available for local and long distance (credit card only) calls. Lost and found will be located at the convention office.

### PARKING

Ample parking is now available within walking distance of First Church, Jackson, with lots open at the Baptist Building, in First Church's parking lots surrounding the church, and in a recently completed church lot at the corner of State and High streets. Parking will not be available this year at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. No shuttle service will be provided.

Due to the church's ongoing ministries in their Family Life Center, messengers are asked not to park in the parking garage or the outside lot on which the center resides. However, there is a lot available on North Street immediately behind the Family Life Center.

Convention attendees are requested to cross streets at designated crosswalks, due to heavy traffic in the area. The Skywalk over State Street will be available.

Convention-goers are also cautioned against over-parking on meters and illegal parking. Tickets issued by the Jackson Police Department cannot be forgiven. Improperly parked vehicles may be towed. A number of area parking lots are privately owned; parking in those reserved lots is not recommended.

### DISPLAY AREA

The display area and the LifeWay Christian Resources bookstore will be located in Fellowship Hall East on the ground level floor of First Church, Jackson.

### CHILDCARE

Preschool child care will be available by preregistration for children ages birth through five, at First Church, Jackson, from the beginning of the Pastors' Conference on October 28 through the adjournment of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Wednesday, October 30. All children should be picked up by noon on Wednesday, October 30. Child care procedures are as follows:

1. Preregister as soon as possible by calling (601) 949-1904 or (601) 949-1912. Registrations cannot be made with personnel of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; only authorized employees of First Church, Jackson, can make reservations at the above numbers. Register by giving name of child(ren), parents' names, and church represented.

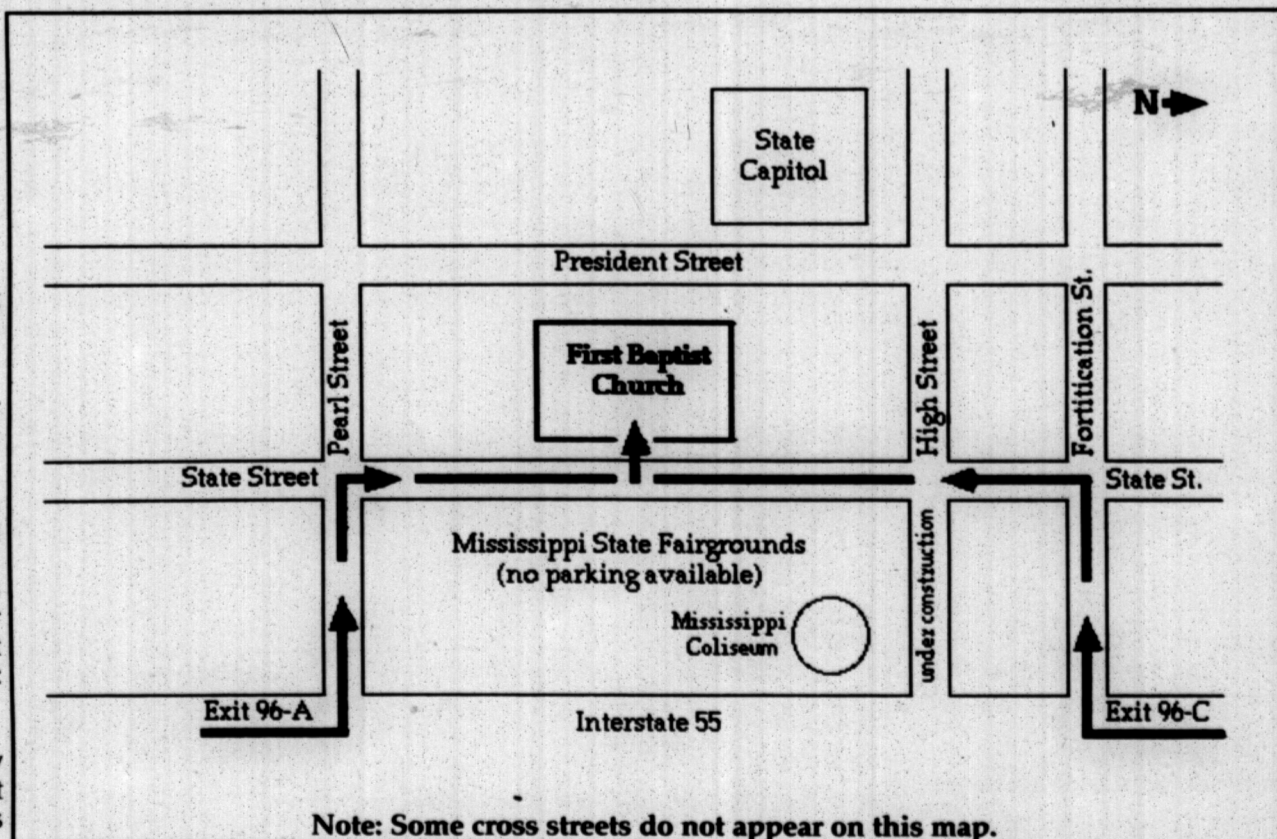
2. Pick up a security card for each child upon arrival at child care facility.

3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.

4. For infants, leave a feeding schedule.

5. Children cannot be accepted earlier than 20 minutes before the start of each session, and they should be picked up no later than 20 minutes after the close of each session. Children may remain in the child care area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday, October 29, if parents provide a sack lunch for each child.

For more information, contact preschool secretary Allyson Davis at (601) 949-1904. E-mail: adavis@fbcj.org.



## SPIRITUAL SNIPERS

The world is watching incredible sniper incidents that are taking place around our nation's capital. Someone with a high-powered rifle, standing a good distance away, fires one shot and critically injures a child on the way to school. He kills a man doing a favor and mowing a yard for a friend, a lady putting a package in her car, another lady sitting and waiting for a bus, and a man at a service station pumping gas.

At times, this terrorist sniper has literally paralyzed traffic, events, and people around Washington, D.C.

What kind of intense, focused rage pushes a person to such destructive and seemingly senseless acts? I suppose in circles where psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and sociological analyzers gather, it is an endless topic of conversation.

The first time we had ever seen such destructive action toward another human being was when the human family was ever so small and one brother killed another brother.

That first act of hate and murder came as the result of a man whose heart was not right



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

with God. He lived in rebellion and refused to do what God had asked him to do. He decided he would rather live with an embittered heart than to live in the blessings of God.

No doubt, as more information comes in, we will find there are similarities with these most recent killings. I thought a lot about this person, whoever he is out there in the distance ending another's life, and I thought about how many snipers may lurk around our churches.

While the Scriptures were written in a time when high-powered rifles and guns were not known, there are other analogies that carry the same concept where people, through the years, have been prone to hurt from a distance and remain anonymous.

Solomon, the wise teacher

of Israel, in his Proverbs said, "Six things that the Lord God hates, yea seven are an abomination to Him." In the list of seven things, he included, "He that soweth discord among the brethren."

I want you to see this picture of an Old Testament sniper: A person comes around and is talking to a group of people and just raises questions and doubts, plants little seeds that become needs among the brethren, and then goes on about his business as the crop grows and as the fruit comes in.

There is no way to blame the guy who sowed the seed. He is miles away when the infestation takes place. There may be no paper trail, no footprints, no incriminating evidence, and no fingerprints.

Nothing! Sometimes, an irreversible infestation has already taken place.

Although, we may be in the same position as the law enforcement officers and criminologists around Washington, D.C., in trying to find and stop such activity, we do so, at times, to our own frustration. There are some things that we can do, limited as they may be:

- We can refuse to be one of those seed-scattering, discord-disseminating, problem-producing people!

- We can watch for suspicious activity and guard against when we see someone else spreading such hurtful information.

- To the best of our ability and under God's guidance, we need to be available and ready to help any way we can when a sniper strikes. As with the chaos created in the D.C. area, often there is uncertainty as to what to do and how to do, and there is hurt and blood everywhere.

- We can pray for God to intervene and protect. God despises such activity, but His hatred is not limited to just dislike. He actually knows who did what and why the outcome is as it is. In time, the truth will prevail and God will expose the sniper.

Stay alert, and keep loving and serving Jesus!

## Pastor's Conf. schedule set

*As Lights in the World,  
Holding Fast the Word of Life*  
Phil. 2:15-16

**October 28**  
Sanctuary of  
First Church, Jackson

**Afternoon Session, 1:30 pm**  
Tony Lambert, Senior Pastor  
Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Chip Henderson, Senior Pastor  
Pinelake Church, Brandon

Dean Stewart, Senior Pastor  
38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg

**Evening Session, 6:00 pm**  
Jim Futral

Executive Director-Treasurer  
Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.

Jim Butler, Senior Pastor  
Trinity Church, Southaven

Claude Thomas, Senior Pastor  
First Church, Euless, Texas

**Worship Leaders**  
Jon and Suzanne Rushing  
Music Evangelists, Nashville

## D.C. pastor carries on ministry, pleads for prayer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A sniper is on the loose, and pastor Mark Dever has seen the fear on peoples' faces. Events are canceled. Plans are changed. People stay inside.

"People are changing what they're doing," said Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Church in Washington, D.C. "They're holding their breath. Games are canceled. If your son has a football game or a soccer game, it's probably been canceled. My son didn't go outside for recess at his school."

Dever spoke about the sniper shootings while visiting Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for the board of trustees meeting earlier this month. Dever serves on the board and is a graduate of the seminary.

While he does not know any of the victims' families, he does frequent many of the locations that have turned into crime scenes.

His family bought a grill at the same Home Depot where the ninth victim was shot. Several of the shootings took place just a couple of miles from his children's school.

"[Capitol Hill Church is] right in the middle of the city, so they're not close to our church," he said, "but they're

close to where our kids go to school, where our kids ride horses, where we shop."

Instead of the heart of the city, the shootings are taking place miles away in the suburbs. Dever admitted that when he's been outside the shootings have come to mind.

"I have filled up my gas a time or two since it started, and I confess that I have thought about it," he said. "One

day last week I was walking back from Union Station to the church — probably about a 10- or 15-minute walk — and I certainly considered the fact [that I could be shot]. ... The guy who was shot in the District was just walking along the street. Yes, those things certainly come to mind."

Christians in the area should not live with the fear that others have, Dever said, adding that he has seen his congregation handle the crisis well. "That's not just a pastor trying to speak well of their church. We know that this world is not our final home," he said.

Offering advice for Christians praying for the situation, Dever said Christians should pray that God will convict the sniper's conscience and that he will be apprehended. Dever pointed

out that 1 Corinthians 6:9 lists a series of sins — including murder — and concludes by saying, "such were some of you."

"Lord willing, there are murderers who have come to know Christ," Dever said. "... Certainly we can pray for that."

He also requested prayer for D.C.-area Christians that

they will be bold witnesses to non-believers in the midst of anxious times.

"We should pray particularly just for ourselves, that we are able to live in such a way that it shows that we have a hope that can't be exhausted by this life ending," he said. "That's a great thing to show to other people. It's a good witness for Christ."



Dever

## Ministry Assistants select officers



Officers for the Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association for 2002-2003 include (back row, from left) Sandy Commack of Central Church, Meridian - area VII representative; Betty Anne Bailey of The Baptist Record, Jackson - chaplain; Scheryl Ng of Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland - area V representative; Sandi Komurke of First Church, Madison - area V representative; Kay McDonnell of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board - Baptist Building representative; Linda Lambert of New Hope Church, Monticello - area VIII representative; (front row, from left) Linda Coleman of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City - secretary treasurer; Sharon Brewer of Rankin Association, Brandon - second vice president; and Julie Field of Meadowood Church, Amory - president. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Acteens of First Church, Ocean Springs

First Church, Ocean Springs, Acteens celebrated Christmas in August planning mission projects. Pictured (from left) are

Laura Harris, Darrah Harris, Kelsey Reid, Kayla Crowson, Stephanie Golden, Leigh Browning, Suzanne Turner, Megan Yoe, and Hillary Gifford. Michael Barnett is pastor.

Judgement House will be held Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 1-3 from 6-10 p.m. at Wheeler Grove Church,

Bell, P.O. Box 503, Macon, MS 39341.

Gunter Road Church, Florence, will present The Revelations' Quartet in concert Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 932-4134.

Good Hope Church, Lena, will observe Harvest Day Oct. 27. Worship will begin at 11 a.m. Wayne McGee, pastor, will bring the message. Lunch will be served.

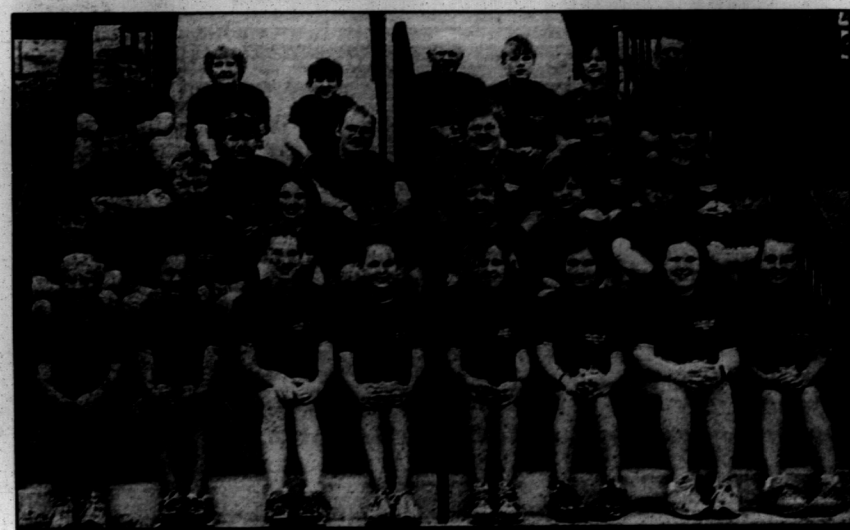
Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will host their High Attendance Day Oct. 27. Steve Stone, Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be speaking that evening. A spaghetti dinner will be hosted. For more information, call (228) 896-4556 or e-mail fernwood-bc@aol.com.

Corinth. For more information, call (662) 287-2864.

A history of the Baptist Organization of Noxubee County is in the process of printing. The advance price will be \$30 and checks may be made to Noxubee Association and mailed to William D.



Ground Breaking of Walthall Church, Walthall



Youth of Macedonia Church, Myrtle

First Church, Senatobia, held a ground-breaking on Oct. 6. Pictured (from left) are Brent Bozeman, pastor, and John Flowers, pastor emeritus.

Emmanuel Church, Grenada, baptized 60 people on Sep. 22 and nine on Sept. 29, following a revival on Aug. 18 with Junior Hill, evangelist. Clarence Cooper is pastor.

Wynndale Church, Terry, will hold its Arts and Craft Show, and Antique Car Show on Nov. 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Multipurpose Building. The church is located at 11287 Springridge Road. Admission is .50 cents. For more information, call (601) 371-2429.

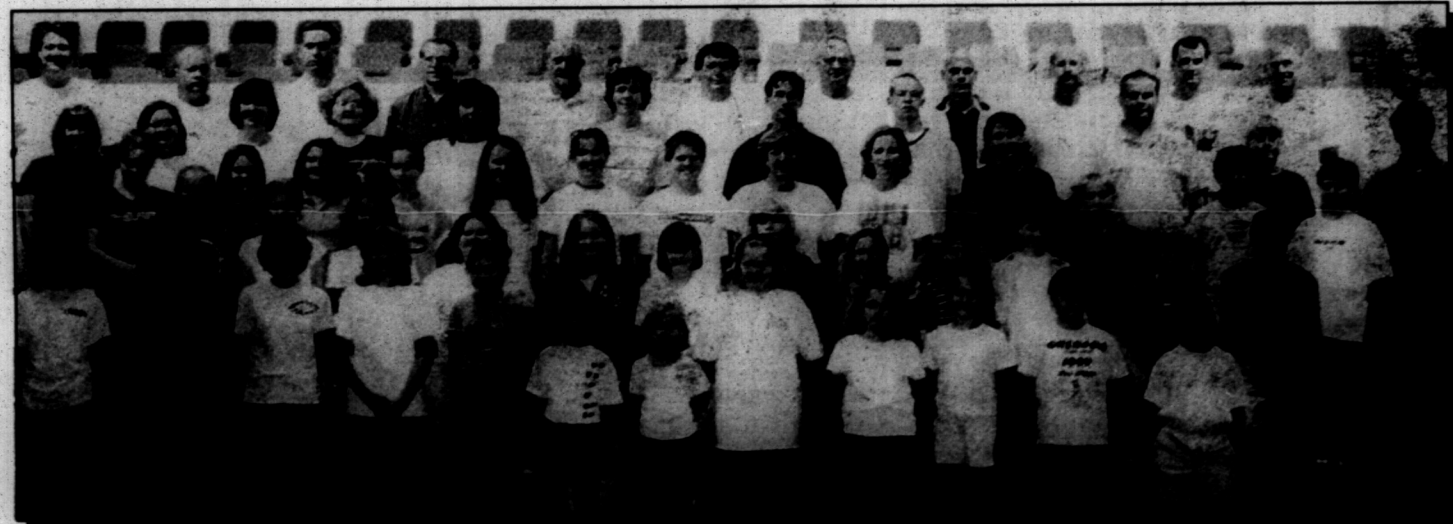
The youth group from Macedonia Church, Myrtle, went to Lexington/Georgetown, Ky., on July 13-20 for a mission trip. The group did Backyard Bible clubs, performed drama, and aided local churches in feeding the hungry.

Walthall Church, Walthall, held a ground-breaking service on Sep. 29. Pictured (from left) are William Weddle, pastor, Billy Brister, Douglas Hubbard, Opal Vickers, Sharon Tindall, Marvie Stewart, Belinda Stewart, and Norm Perkins.

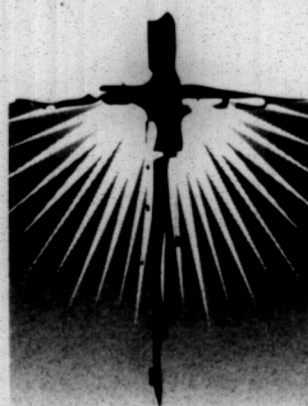


Bozeman & Flowers

at Wheeler Grove Church,



Participants of Baptism Service at Emmanuel Church, Grenada



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Ackerman Church,** recently ordained Stephen Cannon. He served as Minister of Students for three years and has resigned to attend Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Pictured (from left) are Cannon and Ron Harrison, pastor.

Hunter West and Peyton Barnett.

**Pilgrims Rest Church,** Batesville, celebrated with Bernard Phelps for 50 years as deacon. Pictured (from left) are his wife, Martha, Phelps, and Wes Sherman, pastor.

**Jimmy Ashley** was recently ordained as deacon, Southway Church, Brookhaven. Pictured (from left) are Leon Wallace, pastor, Ashley, and Jeff King.

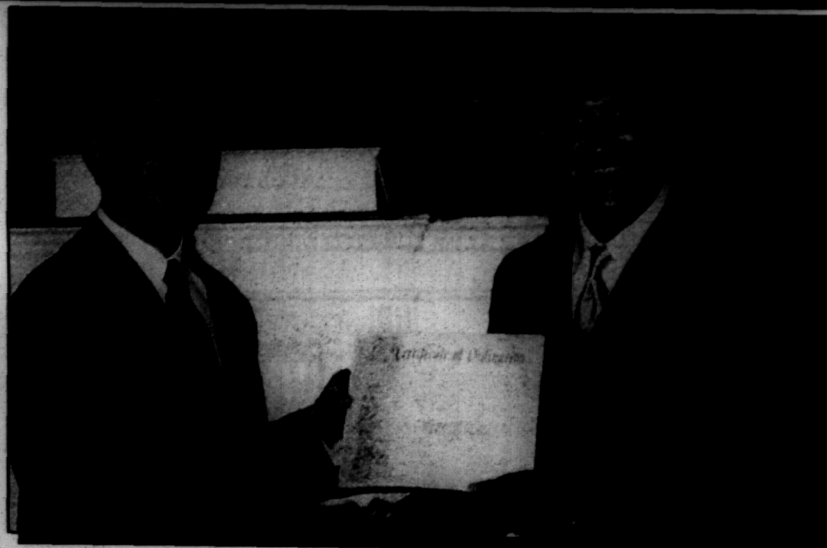
**Pilgrims Rest Church,** Batesville, recently held two baby dedications for



The Barnetts & Sherman



The Phelps' and Sherman



Stephen Cannon and Ron Harrison



Wallace, Ashley, and King



Sherman, Hunter & Paige West, and Laura & E.J. Robison



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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Correction

The telephone numbers in Columbus listed for more information on Operation Christmas Child, as published on page five of the October 17 issue, contained incorrect prefixes. The correct numbers are (662) 356-4908, and (662) 328-3915. It was an editor's typographical error.

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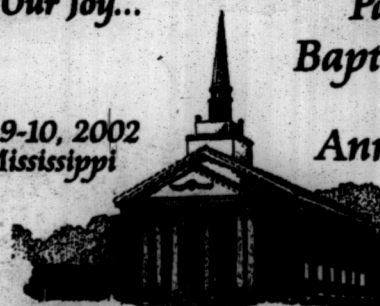


Evangelist  
Desi Ginn

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# BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

## Rankin set to speak at First, Madison

Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be the guest speaker for a men's prayer breakfast and all three morning worship services on November 3 at First Church, Madison.

The prayer breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. in the church's Christian Activities Center. The morning worship services begin at 8:30 a.m., 9:40 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Rankin, who grew up in Tupelo and Clinton, will be in Mississippi the week before to address the 167th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at 2:25 p.m. on October 29.



Quinn

Quinn has served as Associate Professor of English in the Division of Language and Literature at Blue Mountain College since 1991.

Mississippi College Art Department faculty are displaying their works in a special exhibit. Participating faculty are Stephen D. Cook, Steve Glaze, Sam Gore, Randy Miley, Mary Lane Reed, and Albert Smathers. The show will be on display through Oct. 31 in Samuel Marshall Art Gallery, Aven Fine Arts Building. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Admission is free. For more information, call (601) 925-3231.

William Carey College faculty member Gene Winters, professor of church music and voice, will receive a Mississippi Humanities Council Faculty Award. Winters will present the lecture, Hymns as Mirrors of our Faith and Ritual, Thurs., Oct. 17, at 4 p.m. in Lucile Parker Gallery. All are welcome. Admission is free.

Steve Glaze, professor of Art, has been named for the 2002 Mississippi College Humanities Award. He will be recognized at the Mississippi Humanities Council awards dinner on Feb. 7. Glaze will make a public presentation

titled Expressing Spiritual Content Through Art on Tues., Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. in Aven Auditorium, Mississippi College. All are welcome. There will be a reception in Aven Lobby following the presentation.

The William Carey College Department of Theatre will present Out By the Rabbit Cage, Oct. 24-26, 8 p.m. in O. L. Quave Theatre, Hattiesburg, and Nov. 8, 10 a.m. at Mississippi American College Theatre Festival, Mississippi State University.



Ray

Seats can be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. Admission is \$10, senior citizens and military \$8, and students \$5. WCC students are admitted free.



Winters

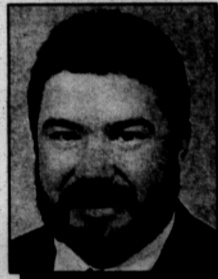
William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS

## STATE CHANGES

Curtis L. Williams will retire as pastor of First Church, Purvis, on Nov. 27. He will be available for fill-ins and revivals.



Holland



Earnheart

Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Theological Seminary are invited to a meeting at noon, Oct. 29, at First Church, Jackson. Thomas Strong will be speaking. The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP by Oct. 22 to (601) 264-2427 or 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3331.

Four with ties to Mississippi graduated May 18 from Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Receiving degrees were Jeff Holland, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, doctor of ministry; William Miller, Bethel Church, Monticello, doctor of

ministry; Charles Ray, son of the late Sarah and Vernon Ray, Yazoo City, master of arts in Christian education; and William Earnhart III, Madison, master of divinity.

Mississippi College (MC), Clinton, Tribal Players present Oscar Wilde's classic farce, The Importance of Being Earnest, in Aven Little Theatre, Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 7 p.m. nightly and 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. For information and reservations, call (601) 925-3454.



Miller



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## HOMEcomings & REVIVAL DATES

Trinity, Pearl: Oct. 27; Revival in America; 6 p.m.; The Steeles, Nashville, singing; Jeff Steele, preaching; Kenny Goff, pastor.

Lakeview, Leland: Oct. 27-30; 50th Anniversary; Don Boyett, guest pastor; Cottage Prayer Meeting, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.; Oct. 26, day of prayer.

Antioch, Union: Oct. 27-30; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, preaching; Wayne Bishop, music; James Young, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: Nov. 3-6; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; nursery provided; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Steven Lloyd, pastor.

Youth Crusade, Southwest Mississippi Community College,

Fine Arts Building, Summit: Nov. 6-9; 7 p.m.; Jad Khalaf, evangelist; Joe Elliot, music; Solomon's Wish in concert, Sat.

Bethel, Bogue Chitto: Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Doug Benedict, guest speaker; Senior Citizen's Appreciation; lunch in fellowship hall; Pilgrim's Rest Quartet, 1:15 p.m.

Liberty, Newton: Nov. 3; worship, 10 a.m.; Paid in Full, music; potluck lunch following.

Lakeshore, Jackson: 25th anniversary; Oct. 27; Gary Bowlin, first pastor, morning message; followed by dinner on the grounds and singing.

Glendale, Leland: Oct. 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; wor-

ship, 11 a.m.; lunch following service; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Edward Pendergrass, preaching; The Cantwells, music.

Ludlow, Ludlow: Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Dwight Cooper, music; Danny Panter, speaking; M.L. Wallace, pastor; lunch at noon.

Salem, Walthall: Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Billy Murphy, speaking; Rod Schepers, music; lunch following with afternoon singing.

Sandy Hook, Sandy Hook: Oct. 27-30; 7 p.m.; Peter Lord, guest speaker; Temple Church Praise Team, Hattiesburg, music.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

The Red Banks, WMU of Red Banks recently visited the Baptist Children's Village, Independence, with supplies and money to purchase coats. In January they made lap pads for nursing home residents. In May they donated supplies to the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis, Tenn. The church year ended with the addition of an evening WMU group.



WMU of Red Banks Church, Red Banks

**Seminary Church,** dedicated its newly completed Sunday School Annex on Sept. 8. This represented phase one of an ongoing church construction program. Frank Bishop is pastor.

**Liberty Church, Liberty,** held a commissioning service for Mission Volunteers on May 5. Pictured (from left, front) Kathryn Craft, Carol Peck, Imogene Leake, Linda Tate, Alice and Gerald Johnston, (back) Alton Foster, DeWitt Craft, Clay Caston, Buddy

Kirkland, Robert Payne, and Larry Tate. Wayne Stokes is not pictured.

The Children's Choir of Woodville Church, Woodville presented the musical The One True God on Sep. 15. Pictured (from left, front) Jessica Swaggart, Kristen Livingston, Malarie Dawson, Amanda Starns, Lauren Cate Leake, Lance Bourgeois, Danielle van Dinther-Stead, (back) George Davis, Joshua

Swaggart, Desiree' Krol, Jared Townley, Justin Davis, and A.J. Krol. Blake Johnson and Trey McCants are in the scenery. Deborah Vines, director, was assisted by Teresa Davis. Wanda Starns made the scenery.

**GA's of Woodville Church, Woodville,** were recognized for their dedication to missions this year. Pictured (from left) are Desiree' Krol, Lauren Cate Leake, Kristen Livingston, Jessica Swaggart, Kay Smith, Tammy Ryan, Carolyn Kee, and Toni Kee.

**Beulah Church, Magee,** held a note-burning ceremony on July 7 and celebrated its 100th anniversary. Activities included: presentation of the anniversary certificate; morning worship beginning revival services; and lunch, followed by a service featuring reading from the history of Beulah. Bob Ivy is pastor. Pictured



Mission Volunteers of Liberty Church, Liberty



Note Burning of Beulah Church, Magee



GA's of Woodville Church, Woodville



Children's Choir of Woodville Church, Woodville



Seminary Church, Seminary

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**STUDENT MINISTER SOUGHT BY** church averaging 154 in Sunday school/70 in Discipleship Training. E-mail resume to [Longviewbc@onecallinc.com](mailto:Longviewbc@onecallinc.com) or mail to Longview Baptist, c/o Johnny Sykes, 406 Dozier Hill Rd., Belden, MS 38826. Church located 6 miles east of Pontotoc, MS/10 miles west of Tupelo, MS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH,** Sumrall, Miss. is seeking to employ a part-time Minister of Music that would be responsible for working with the children, youth, and adult choirs. If interested, please mail your resume to FBC Oloh, c/o Music Minister Search Committee, 36 Oloh Church Road,

Sumrall, MS 39482.  
**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER,** First Baptist Church, Plantersville, Miss. Less than 100 in Sunday School. Fax resume to (662)-842-3632 or email [jerrycuta@juno.com](mailto:jerrycuta@juno.com)

**TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED** twelve miles south of Monticello, is seeking a Bi-Vocational Minister of Music. Primary responsibilities will include directing music during regular worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641.

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH,** Aberdeen, Miss is seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties to include music direction during regular worship services, mid-week rehearsals and special music presentations during the year. Send resumes to the Music Committee, P.O. Box H, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

**ORGANIST SEARCH: CALVARY BAPTIST** Church, Tupelo, Mississippi is searching for a part-time organist. Must have education and experience. Please send resumes to Organist Search, P.O. Box 1008, Tupelo, MS 38802 or call (662) 842-3338 for more information.

**MEDIUM SIZED RURAL CHURCH** seeking part-time Minister of Music with full music ministry. Please send resumes to: Hebron Baptist Church, 4795 Vimville Causeway Road, Meridian, MS 39301 or contact by phone - (601) 644-3469. Receiving applications through November 30, 2002.

**THE JACKSON COUNTY BAPTIST** Association is presently searching for an Association Missions Director. If you are interested in the position or would like to recommend someone, please send resumes to: Dr. Rex Yancey, 902 Live Oak Avenue, Pascagoula, MS 39567.

# Old tradition renewed after find in woods

FORT GAINES, Ga. (BP) — The Georgia woods have given up many of their secrets through the years — Civil War minie balls, cannons, and belt buckles — but one of the

Gilead Church as to anyone in their small community near Fort Gaines in southwest Georgia. The existence of the baptismal pool had been lost in the mists of time as it lay under dirt and a layer of pine straw for nearly half of its life.

The story of the missing baptistry began to unfold on May 4 when members gathered in the woods across the street from the church, the oldest in the county, to clear the land for parking spaces. As members hacked at the underbrush, deacon and Clay County Sheriff Roger Shivers hit something with a backhoe that caught his attention.

Not exactly sure what he had hit and recognizing it wasn't going to move, he called fellow deacons Mike Hartley and Eugene Williams to bring their

shovels and dig around the area. Within a few minutes of removing the top layer of soil the men had identified a concrete structure 9 feet long and 5 feet wide. The men were at a total

loss as to what they had found and were somewhat apprehensive to continue digging.

"We didn't know if it was a grave or a septic tank but we talked a little bit and decided to keep digging. After we had dug out enough of the dirt we discovered it was a baptismal pool," Williams recounted.

Few members remembered the church ever having a place to baptize new believers. Margaret Lindsey, who has been a member since 1939, had never seen the baptismal pool.

M.M. "Pap" Shivers, who says he was "practically born and raised in this church" and who attended a two-room schoolhouse which shared the property with the baptistry, now remembers playing in it "way back then, you know, how little chillun' do when they have time on their hands."

"We didn't know exactly what it was but, from the 1828 date inscribed in the concrete, it had been there 104 years when we were just little chillun'."

"I don't know how long it had been since the waters had been stirred in baptism, but I will tell you one thing: my mother was baptized in 1933 in Hog Creek, down the road here a bit in the Pecan Community,

so that will tell you that they weren't using it then."

After determining that the baptismal pool was in mint condition, the congregation restored the old tradition of holding baptisms in the ancient structure rather than in pastor Randy Stokes's swimming pool.

A garden hose stretched across the two-lane blacktop highway from the church slowly fills the 4-foot-deep vault with 600 gallons of water. Even though the water is crystal-clear when the baptistry is filled, it becomes cloudy overnight as it begins to leach into the concrete.

The congregation has constructed a temporary cover for the baptistry, which keeps pine needles and animals out of the pool and prevents anyone from falling into it when not in use, church historian Pam Monfort said.

Stokes said in-ground baptismal pools are rare but there is one baptistry of similar dimensions located at an African American church in the county. The Mt. Gilead pool is believed to have been built with slave labor since the membership in its early days was largely comprised of wealthy landowners and slaves.



NEWNESS OF LIFE — Dorothy Smith is led down the four steps for baptism in an 1828 in-ground baptismal pool recently discovered and now being used anew at Mt. Gilead Church in rural southwest Georgia. (BP photo by Joe Westbury)

strangest would have to be an in-ground baptistry that had been lost for most of the last century in rural Clay County.

The discovery was as much a surprise to the members of Mt.

## IMB: nearly all missionaries sign BFM affirmation

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Almost 99% of Southern Baptists' overseas missionaries have affirmed the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), and International Mission Board (IMB) leaders are asking the remaining few to decide soon whether

they are going to affirm it as well.

Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations, is talking personally with those missionaries about their reasons for delaying.

"For 157 years, Southern Baptist missionaries have been expected to affirm that their beliefs are consistent with the beliefs of the churches that support them," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. "It is a reasonable expectation."

"We have asked missionaries to affirm that their personal beliefs are consistent with the current Baptist Faith and Message or, in the case of minor disagreements, that they will work in accordance with and not contrary to the document. A few have been reluctant, for various reasons, to make that commitment. We do not feel it is appropriate for that situation to continue indefinitely."

In January 2001, IMB trustees voted their "wholehearted" endorsement of the

BFM statement as "the standard for carrying out the program and ministries" of the IMB. They also strongly affirmed the personal beliefs of the agency's missionaries and key stateside staff members.

A year later, Rankin sent a letter to missionaries, asking them to take the initiative of affirming the 2000 BFM, just as they had affirmed earlier versions when they were appointed.

In the ensuing nine months, overseas leaders have talked with missionaries who voiced questions and reservations and the vast majority have signed the affirmation.

Thirteen missionary units (26 people) have submitted resignations that cited the request as a factor in their decisions. The resignations of three other units (six people) are waiting for trustee action during the board's November board meeting. Board officials estimate that slightly more than one percent of the missionaries have not announced their decisions.

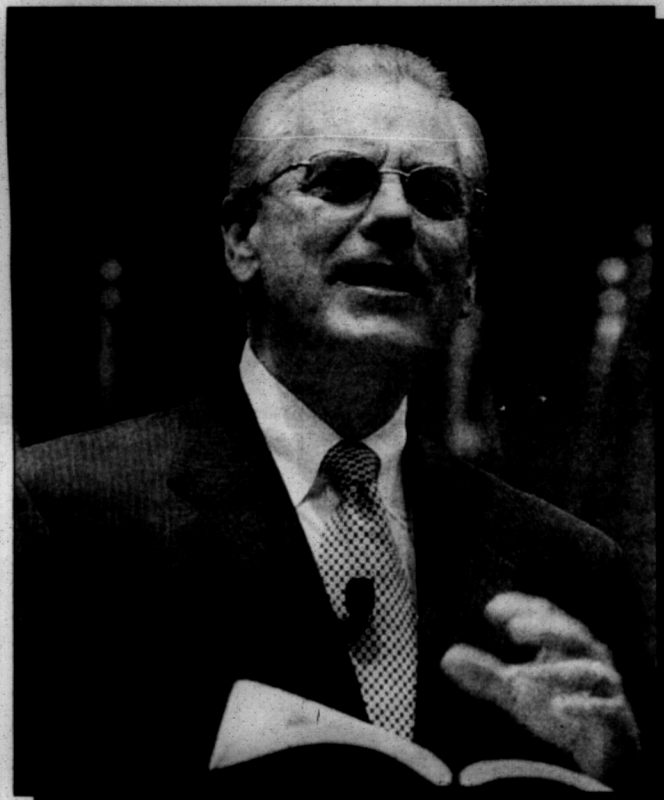
A total of 5,437 missionaries currently are serving through the IMB. Missionaries are not being told to change their personal convictions, Willis said.

"Missionaries are being asked to demonstrate integrity in continuing to serve Southern Baptists only if they can pledge to work 'in accordance with and not contrary to' the convictions of the churches that send and support them," he said.

"What is happening now is that missionaries are being asked to resolve the issue in the next two or three months. Southern Baptist missionaries are godly people with God's passion for a lost world," he said.

"We would hate to lose a single one of them, but Southern Baptists deserve to know that their missionaries serve in harmony with the deeply held convictions they have expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message."

"We believe it is a matter of integrity for missionaries to be honest with Southern Baptists and promise to honor the churches' convictions in the ways they teach and minister."



Rankin



Willis

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Promising a Righteous Ruler

II Samuel 7:8-16; Psalm 89:1-4; Isaiah 9:6-7

By Gene Neal

This lesson looks at the covenant God made with David, a covenant which builds on the past, giving us a picture of a God who deeply loves people and will go to any length to have a relationship with them. Each covenant shows a new aspect of God's plan for mankind with this last one promising the coming of Messiah. Without that promise it would be easy for critics to become detached from the importance of these Old Testament writings and relegate them as past history with no present significance. While it is true that this promise was originally given to a king on the other side of the world some 3000 years ago, the fulfill-

ment of the promise continues to impact lives today. By looking at three separate passages we can see the origin of the covenant, the impact of the covenant on following generations, and the fulfillment of the covenant.

The first part of II Samuel tells us of a period of victory and prosperity in the kingdom of Israel with David as king. Chapter 7 tells us that David wanted to build a special place for the Ark of the Covenant. God's response to that was a very special promise (a covenant) to bless David, his family line, and future generations. David wanted to do something for God but God did more for David. (When will we learn that we can't out-give God?) God began His



Neal

promise to David much like He did with Moses. He reminded David of all that He had done in David's life, showing that He was dependable and believable. God then gave a two-part promise; one part would be fulfilled through Solomon and the other through Jesus.

God's promises to David were part of His overall plan for His people. That could remind us of what Henry Blackaby wrote in *Experiencing God* when he made the point concerning God's will. Rather than seeking God's will for our individual lives, we would do better to seek God's will period! David began by asking to have a specific part in God's plan and ended up getting a glimpse of the big picture. Joining God in His big plan is always better than any small piece of the puzzle that we can come up with! It's also worth noting that the promise was simply based on God's faithfulness, not David's abilities.

As we know, the reign of

David had some very high times of conquest and national expansion as well as some very low times of inner turmoil and moral decay. It was during a very low time that Psalm 89 was written. By reading the entire Psalm, it is clear that the writer is lamenting over the seeming downfall of the Davidic dynasty. With this sad truth, how can he also write the first portion of the Psalm, particularly verses one through four when he says that he will sing of the Lord's love forever? The question would sound much like questions today that ask for God's whereabouts in the midst of disease, wars, famine, crime, prejudice, hatred and so forth. The answer for the writer of Psalm 89 and the answer for today is the same. Trust God! The psalmist referred to God's covenant with David as his hope for the future. He did not refer to the greatness or genius of man; but the faithfulness of God! God never expects us to stick our heads

in the sand and pretend that the world is just fine, but He does expect us to trust His faithfulness and Lordship.

We find another good word by turning to the prophet Isaiah. In chapter 9 we find those beautiful words that announce the fulfillment of the promise to David, the coming of Messiah. It's equally interesting that these words were also written during some very bad times. Isaiah was prophesying during the decline of Israel and the expansion of the Assyrians. He warned Judah that her sin would result in captivity to the Babylonians. Even with all of this gloom and doom, Isaiah told us that God would keep His promise and that hope would come in a child. While it is enjoyable to study the covenants that God has made with people in the past, our real joy should come in the realization that God has always kept His promises.

Neal is the pastor of First Church, Quitman.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Real Life Is for Sinners

John 8

By Ginger M. Caughman

Rocks and stones. The chapter narrative begins with the religious leaders about to throw rocks at a prostitute to stone her (vv. 3-11) and ends with their trying to stone our Lord Jesus (vv. 58-59).

A current story in our world news for the past several months concerns Amina Lawal, a young 31-year-old single mother in Nigeria who has been sentenced by an Islamic court to be stoned to death for having sex outside of marriage. The Associated Press reported that The sentence is scheduled to be carried out in 2004 after Lawal finishes weaning the baby.

The title Real life is for Sinners is for each of us for we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). When the woman in our Bible lesson met

Jesus she was told to: "Go and sin no more." Jesus addressed the sin of every person when He said, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7b). Just like the Samaritan woman at the well in chapter four of John, this woman's encounter with the promised Messiah, the Christ, made a difference in her life.

How has Jesus made a difference in your life? Many Christians are content with a few surface differences from those who do not belong to Christ. Belonging to God affects all of life. God expects those who are saved to exemplify the difference being His children makes in how they live.

Read in today's background passage (John 8:28) when Jesus forecast His own death on the cross. Many did



Caughman

not understand. Neither do those outside of Christ understand today. Just as Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). Perish. Sinner. The

lost. Strong words, but a powerful Savior offers salvation. Real life is for sinners, those who are perishing, the lost.

The focal passage for this lesson centers on the test for true discipleship in abiding in Christ in loyalty, freedom, and obedience.

1. Loyalty. Read John 8:30-32. Jesus was and is the Light of the world (v.12). He pointed to His Heavenly Father as His teacher. Even as Jesus spoke, many put their faith in Him (v. 30). The word "faith" in verse 30 is from the same Greek word as "believed" in verse 31. These people merely had believed what Jesus said and had not trusted Him for salvation. Thus Jesus chal-

lenged their faith. Jesus declared that the test of their faith would be their loyalty to His teaching.

Is Jesus your teacher? How are you loyal to Him? Through Scripture He admonishes His disciples to hold to His teaching...and know the truth! Note the beautiful key verses in John 8:31-32.

2. Freedom. Read John 8:33-39.

The children of Abraham didn't understand Jesus teaching about spiritual freedom and were ready to kill Him. These people who claimed to be Abraham's children, Jesus described instead as sinners. Do you understand the free gift offered to you by Jesus Christ? If the Son of God sets you free from the burden of sin, you will be free indeed (v. 36)! People who belong to God show they are free from sins control over their lives.

3. Obedience. Read John 8:42-47.

Jesus sent from God was not only telling the truth taught by His Heavenly Father, He was truth. Do you

hear the voice of Jesus? The stern teaching here in Scripture is clear. He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God (v. 47). The Greek word for hear can include the idea of obedience, which it does here. We are all sinners, but the child of God is a saved sinner. If you do not belong to God, will you accept Him today?

Our October lessons have been considering real life in Christ. Do you have real life in Christ? Are you a lost sinner without Christ? Do you sense God speaking to you? Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44). If you sense the Heavenly Father drawing you unto Himself, please put your faith in Jesus Christ. The result is eternal life beginning now. Real life, abundant life, life to the full is offered to all who will receive Jesus Christ.

Caughman is a member of First Church Magee.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# Graham preaching, battling Parkinson's

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — At 83 and battling Parkinson's disease — and with former President George H.W. Bush providing the introduction — evangelist Billy Graham made a historic return to north Texas to launch his Metroplex Mission Oct. 17-20 at

Texas Stadium in Irving.

The former president received a deafening standing ovation more akin to a Dallas Cowboys victory than the opening night of an evangelistic campaign. Bush spoke for eight minutes about faith and his family's close relationship with the Graham family.

Bush recalled spending part of the evening in prayer with Graham the night Operation Desert Storm began in 1991. "That night I can tell you that once again I gained great comfort and peace from Billy Graham and from God above," Bush said.

Graham's son Franklin steadied the evangelist as he walked to the podium, and a chair was placed behind him, which he didn't use until the end of his sermon. Graham eventually motioned for the crowd to sit during a long ovation given in appreciation for his more

than 60 years of unparalleled ministry. His last Dallas-area crusade was in 1971.

After thanking Bush and talking about how much the area had changed, Graham recounted that he held his first crusade in Texas in the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth in 1951.

Then in characteristic fashion, Graham said, "I want to turn to the most familiar passage in all the Bible for my text, John 3:16," and the heart of the mission began. Emphasizing God's love, the evangelist said, "If you don't remember anything else I say this weekend, remember that God loves you."

Two pastors with ties to Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth participated in the opening night's program. Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth and chairman of Southwestern's board of trustees, led the crowd of more than 38,000 in the

opportunity to support the mission financially.

Dean introduced the offering by pointing out the "ring of honor" around Texas stadium. During the mission, he said, hundreds of individuals would make decisions for Christ in the famous venue and would join another ring of honor.

Southwestern alumnus Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Arlington, gave the closing benediction. Just before that, hundreds came down from the stands at Graham's invitation to give their hearts to Christ as the choir sang "Just As I Am."

Southwestern professor of missions Daniel Sanchez was a member of the organizing committee that helped bring Graham back to the Metroplex.

More than 400 students were participating in the mission as counselors, supervisors and choir members, said Roy Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism.



**GRAHAM FETED** — Former President George H.W. Bush (front row, center) was on hand to introduce evangelist Billy Graham (right) on the opening night of the Oct. 17-20 Metroplex Mission at Texas Stadium in Irving. Graham's son Franklin (left), head of Samaritan's Purse ministry, looks on. (BP photo by Richard McCormack)

## Fall Chautauqua events helping energize seniors

LANCASTER, Pa. (BP) — Senior adults should be energized with the knowledge they have much to contribute to the life of their churches.

That's the message Larry Mizell, who coordinates senior adult events for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered to 386 seniors from nine states attending the senior adult Chautauqua in Lancaster, Pa., earlier this month.

LifeWay sponsored six different Chautauqua events combining education and entertainment, for senior adults at four locations this fall. About 2,600 seniors from 30 states attended the events.

"About 80% of the people who come to the fall Chautauqua come with church groups," Mizell said.

"This is a great opportunity for them to return to their churches full of ideas for how they can continue to minister not only to other senior adults but to the whole church."

Senior adult chautauqua events took place at:

- Willow Valley Resort in Lancaster, Pa.
- LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in

Ridgecrest, N.C.

• LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M., the week of Oct. 7-11.

Three other events were held earlier at Ridgecrest, Glorieta and the Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center.

Mizell said. "Ridgecrest and Glorieta tend to attract more of the seniors who are 65 and older. They have a tradition of going to Ridgecrest and Glorieta and still enjoy these locations," both of which continue to undergo revitaliza-

Church on South Padre Island, have attended other chautauqua events over the years at Ridgecrest and Glorieta, but this year decided to come to Pennsylvania to meet three of his sisters.

"We had decided to go to Ridgecrest this year, but when my sisters and I talked, we decided to come here since it is so close to Susan and Lois," she said.

Susan Maricle and Lois Macks both live in Maryland and attend White Marsh Church in Perry Hall.

Their other sister, Janice Bopst, lives in Ormond Beach, Fla., and attends Ormond Beach Union Church.

"This is just a marvelous experience," Bopst said.

"It's so much fun to get together with my family and to be around all these other people," he pointed out.

For more information about the upcoming winter chautauqua events and for the dates and locations of next year's fall events, go to [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) or send an e-mail message to [larry.mizell@lifeway.com](mailto:larry.mizell@lifeway.com).



**GATHERING FOR PRAISE** — Eva Hart (seated at piano) leads senior adults in an impromptu sing-a-long after the final evening service of the senior adult Chautauqua in Lancaster, Pa., sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Hart is pianist and director of the Reflections senior adult choir at First Church in Jackson. More than 380 senior adults attended the event. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Eva Hart, pianist at First Church, Jackson, and director of the church's Reflections senior adult choir, participated at the Chautauqua event in Lancaster, Pa.

The different locations attract different crowds, planners point out.

"At Willow Valley, we seem to attract more of the emerging seniors [ages 55-65],"

tion through new construction and remodeling.

For one family, choosing the Pennsylvania location was a matter of getting to have a family reunion. A brother, three sisters and a sister-in-law met at Willow Valley to spend the week together.

John and Louise Gentry from Brownsville, Texas, and members of Island Baptist

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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CEL QVZ, PXCP SOYO

NVBOPABO CJAOCPOL

CEL OEOBAON AE QVZY

BAEL FQ SAIGOL

SVYGN, QOP EVS XCPX

XO YOIVEIAJOL.

IVJVNNACEN VEO:

PSOEPQ-VEO

Clue: O = E

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Philippians Four: Four.